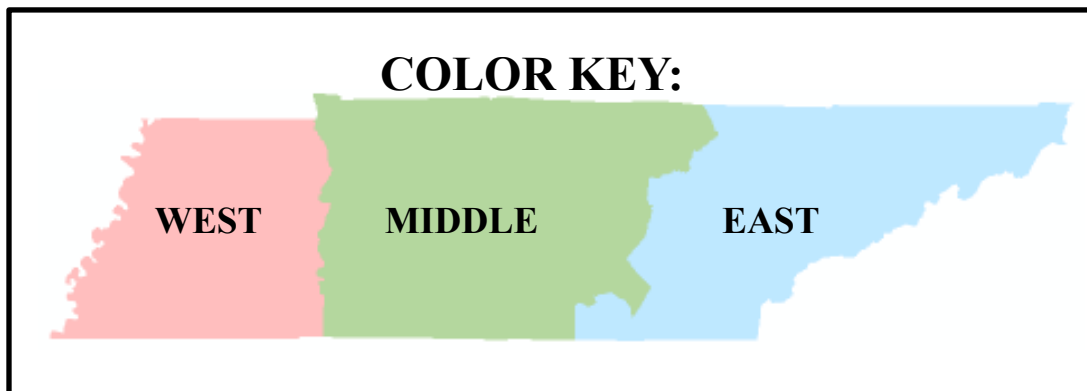




## Division of Natural Areas

# Schedule of Events for 2017

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## FEBRUARY

### Winter Nature Hike

**Date:** Saturday February 4, 2017    **Time:** 10:00 a.m. Central Time    **Fee:** Free    **RSVP Deadline:** 2-Feb-17

**Location:** William B. Clark State Natural Area (35.055058, -89.540063). Route 194, Rossville, Tennessee.

**Hike Leader:** Allan Trently, West Regional Ecologist, Division of Natural Areas

**RSVP Contact:** Allan J. Trently    **phone:** 731-512-1369    **email:** allan.trently@tn.gov

**More Info:** <http://www.tennessee.gov/environment/article/na-na-william-b.-clark>

**Overnight Accommodations:** Camping available at T.O. Fuller State Park; visit <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/t-o-fuller> for information

William B. Clark is a 460-acre State Natural Area in Rossville, Fayette County. Come join us for a short (less than a mile) walk along a boardwalk into the bottomland hardwood forest and swamp. Along the way, the leader will identify plants and animals (primarily birds). This event is considered easy.

### **Short Springs Winter Hike**

**Date:** Saturday February 4, 2017    **Time:** 10:00 a.m. Central Time    **Fee:** Free    **RSVP Deadline:** 2/2/2017

**Location:** Short Springs State Natural Area (35.407453, -86.174645). Short Springs Road, Tullahoma, Tennessee.

**Hike Leader:** David Adams, Middle Regional Ecologist, Division of Natural Areas

**RSVP Contact:** David Adams    **phone:** 615-532-0044    **email:** loretha.legette@tn.gov

**Online Registration:** <http://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=short-springs-winter-hike>

**More Info:** <http://www.tn.gov/environment/article/na-na-short-springs>

**Overnight Accommodations:** <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/old-stone-fort>

Enjoy the great outdoors and beat the winter slump. Join us for a hike on the trails at Short Springs State Natural Area. Hikers will enjoy a 3 mile hike on Busby Falls, Adams Falls, and Machine Falls Loop Trails. We will add an optional 1.5 mile Laurel Bluff Loop Trail hike at the end for those interested. These trails have many ups and downs, creek crossings and beautiful waterfalls so be prepared for slow going & gorgeous scenery. Dress warmly in layers, wear sturdy boots, and bring lunch and plenty of water. The hike will be cancelled in the event of inclement weather so be sure to leave a number where you can be reached in case of cancellation. This hike is considered moderate by most. The Natural Area was hit by an EF1 tornado on November 29, 2016. We will encounter some of the damage as we hike the trails and will add that to the discussion.

### **Cedars of Lebanon Salamander Slide**

**Date:** Saturday Feb. 18, 2017    **Time:** 10:00 a.m. Central Time    **Fee:** Free    **RSVP Deadline:** 2/15/17

**Location:** Cedars of Lebanon State Park, Cedar Forest Road, Wilson County (36.07922, -86.31681).

**Hike Leader:** David Withers, Zoologist, Division of Natural Areas; Buddy Ingram, Manager, Cedars of Lebanon State Park

**RSVP Contact:** David Withers    **phone:** 615-532-0441    **email:** david.withers@tn.gov

**More Info:** <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/cedars-of-lebanon>

**Overnight Accommodations:** <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/cabins/cedars-of-lebanon>

Celebrate our State Parks 80th Anniversary and shake off your winter blues with a glimpse into the fossorial world of our rarest of mole salamanders, the Streamside Salamander (*Ambystoma barbouri*). This state-protected gem disappears for most of the year, becoming visible only when returning to winter streams and washes for breeding. Learn about the habits and habitats of this disappearing middle Tennessee endemic, and help guides David Withers and Buddy Ingram locate new populations at Cedars of Lebanon. Be sure to wear sturdy boots and plan on getting a little wet as we hike any number of moderate trails looking for just the right mix of water and stone that brings salamanders to court and lay eggs. Bring water and food and park in the lot next to the swimming pool to prepare our departure. Expect a 3-4 hour hike with numerous stops.

**MARCH**

## **Track your Hike on Virgin Falls State Natural Area**

**Date:** Saturday March 11, 2017    **Time:** 9:00 a.m. Central Time    **Fee:** \$10    **RSVP Deadline:** 3/8/17

**Location:** Virgin Falls Trailhead Parking Lot Sparta, TN 38583 (35.854080, -85.282163)

**Hike Leader:** Stephanie Williams, Data Manager, Division of Natural Areas

**RSVP Contact:** Stephanie Williams    **phone:** 615-532-4799    **email:** loretha.legette@tn.gov

**Online Registration:** <http://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=track-your-hike-on-virgin-falls-state-natural-area>

**More Info:** <http://www.tn.gov/environment/article/na-na-virgin-falls>

**Overnight Accommodations:** <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/fall-creek-falls>

Have you ever wanted to use your phone or a GPS unit to navigate in the outdoors and collect information from the trails you've actually walked? Join me to discover the tools and tips needed to help guide you to landmarks and create simple maps of where you have traveled. I will show you the apps I use on my iPhone and Android mobile phone to track my position in the field and how to use a handheld Garmin GPS unit to collect information. We will talk about the basics of what is GPS and people can ask questions before we start the hike. After talking about what tools to use, we will hike the 9 mile round-trip (~5-7 hours) Virgin Falls trail with GPS units in hand and enjoy the unique scenic area while getting exercise. The trails pass by small rockhouses, boulder fields, sinks, caves, and waterfalls on route to Virgin Falls where the trail ends. The distance to Virgin Falls is four miles one way. The strenuous trail descends around 900 foot in elevation along a path that in many areas is rocky with uneven footing therefore please be prepared for this adventure with sturdy boots, water, lunch, and clothing for the season. We will meet in the parking lot and I will provide the people who register with lists of apps to download before the hike if they want to use the GPS on their phones during the hike.

## **Fiery Gizzard Falls and Flowers**

**Date:** Saturday March 18, 2017    **Time:** 9:00 a.m. Central Time    **Fee:** Free    **RSVP Deadline:** 3/15/17

**Location:** Meet at Grundy Forest Trailhead Parking Lot, Tracy City (35.252262, -85.747451)

**Hike Leader:** Todd Crabtree, State Botanist, Division of Natural Areas; Jason Reynolds, Ranger, South Cumberland State Park

**RSVP Contact:** Todd Crabtree    **phone:** 615-532-1378    **email:** todd.crabtree@tn.gov

**More Info:** <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/south-cumberland>

Tennessee State Parks are celebrating an 80th Anniversary and the Fiery Gizzard Trail is, at 78 years, almost that old. We'll mark the anniversary by hiking from the Grundy Forest trailhead to see numerous cascades, a few waterfalls and early spring flowers along the trail. This trail is well-known for its scenic beauty and at this time of year the water will be flowing well. Plants will be a focus during the day but the scenery along our approximately 6 mile route will be everpresent. This is a strenuous all-day hike in rugged terrain so ankle support is necessary. Bring water and a lunch.

## **APRIL**

### **Earth Day Hike**

**Date:** Saturday April 22, 2017    **Time:** 8:00 a.m Central Time    **Fee:** Free    **RSVP Deadline:** 4/17/17

**Location:** Frozen Head State Natural Area, Old Mac Trailhead (36.128594, -84.505138) in Morgan County

Tennessee. Park Office near the Trailhead: 964 Flat Fork Rd, Wartburg, TN 37887

**Hike Leader:** Sam King, Middle Regional Ecologist, Division of Natural Areas

**RSVP Contact:** Sam King **phone:** 629-215-0194 **email:** sam.king@tn.gov

**More Info:** <http://www.tennessee.gov/environment/article/na-na-frozen-head>

**Overnight Accommodations:** <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/norris-dam>

Come celebrate Earth Day at Frozen Head State Natural Area. Division of Natural Areas Ecologist Sam King will lead a day hike through this scenic State Natural Area. While we won't even get close to covering the 70 miles of trail at Frozen Head, we will spend the majority of the day hiking 7 miles on some of the most beautiful trails in the state. Please dress for the weather and wear sturdy hiking shoes, as the terrain is fairly rugged. Also remember to bring plenty of water and pack a lunch for the trail. Join our Earth Day celebration as we highlight the conservation efforts of both Tennessee State Parks and Tennessee Division of Natural Areas. We will meet at the Old Mac Trailhead at 8:00 AM. For travelling guests primitive camping is available at Frozen Head and cabins are available at Norris Dam (1 hr away). Trip leader Sam King has spent the last 5 years working for Tennessee State Parks and the Division of Natural Areas as a Park Ranger and an Ecologist.

### **Beyond the Battlefield: Nature Walk**

**Date:** Saturday April 29, 2017 **Time:** 9:00 a.m. Central Time **Fee:** \$10 **RSVP Deadline:** 4/27/17

**Location:** Stones River Cedar Glade and Barrens State Natural Area (35.881793, -86.434730). Meet at Visitor Center. 3501 Old Nashville Hwy, Murfreesboro, TN 37129.

**Hike Leader:** David Adams, Middle Regional Ecologist, Division of Natural Areas

**RSVP Contact:** David Adams **phone:** 615-532-0044 **email:** loretha.legette@tn.gov

**Online Registration:** <http://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=beyond-the-battlefield-nature-walk>

**More Info:** <http://www.tn.gov/environment/article/na-na-stones-river-cedar-glade>

Within the boundaries of the historic Stones River National Battlefield, there is a 185-acre state natural area that adds a layer of ecological importance to the park. Here you will find a unique cedar glades complex with a diverse array of endemic and rare plants. This site was important for the successful recovery of the once federally endangered Tennessee purple coneflower (*Echinacea tennesseensis*). Join us for a hike to explore the cedar glades and the forest communities that surround them. In honor of Arbor Day, we will spend time discussing tree identification along our walk. We will also learn about different aspects of resource management including: native plant restoration, rare and endangered species, prescribed fire, and exotic plant management. Trip leader, David Adams, is a Middle Tennessee ecologist for the State Natural Areas Program. He has a background in ecology and natural resource management with professional experience in the Natural Areas Program and the National Park Service. This hike will be approximately 3 miles and considered easy by most. Wear sturdy footwear and dress appropriately for the weather. The hike will be rescheduled in the event of inclement weather so make sure to leave contact information so you can be reached.

### **Long Hunter State Park "Spring Thing"**

**Date:** Saturday April 29, 2017 **Time:** TBA **Fee:** Free **RSVP Deadline:** No deadline

**Location:** Long Hunter State Park Visitor Center (36.09258, -86.55583)

**Hike Leader:** Roger McCoy, Director, Division of Natural Areas with a number of other events planned

**More Info:** <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/events/long-hunter/#/?park=long-hunter>

Come and join in Long Hunter State Park's spring celebration. Exact details to be determined, but Natural Areas Director Roger McCoy will give a presentation followed by a guided walk along one of Long Hunter's scenic trails.

## MAY

### **Spring hike in unique forest, cedar glade, and geologic features with historical significance**

**Date:** Saturday May 6, 2017      **Time:** 9:30 a.m. Central Time      **Fee:** Free      **RSVP Deadline:** 5/4/17

**Location:** Wilson School Road Forest and Cedar Glade. Wilson School Road, Marshall County (35.664202, -86.794967)

**Hike Leader:** Andrea Bishop, Recovery Biologist, Division of Natural Areas

**RSVP Contact:** Andrea Bishop    **phone:** 615-804-7999    **email:** andrea.bishop@tn.gov

**More Info:** <http://www.tn.gov/environment/article/na-na-wilson-school-road-forest-and-cedar-glades>

**Overnight Accommodations:** <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/henry-horton>. Camping, Restaurant and Inn

The 58-acre natural area was purchased by the State from the Smith family having owned the property since the early 1800s. The Smiths continue to own the land surrounding the natural area. There are limestone cedar glades with shallow soils on limestone bedrock and forested areas with blue-ash and red cedar growing in richer soil with thick moss cover. In the forested area are impressive limestone karst features and large sinkholes. It was told by the family that they took refuge in the sinkholes during the Civil War battles. In addition to the historical tour of the site by Ben Smith, we will see the globally imperiled running glade clover, *Trifolium calcaricum*, restricted to four sites in TN and two sites in Virginia. The clover grows in shady, rich soil in the unique blue ash-cedar forest. In the open rock outcrops and shallow soils of the cedar glades, we will see the rare plants Carolina anemone (*Anemone caroliniana*), glade cress (*Leavenworthia exigua* var *exigua*, Tennessee milk-vetch (*Astragalus tennesseensis*) and Indian breadroot (*Pediomelum subacaule*). Other spring flowering herbs and shrubs are wild columbine, aromatic sumac, glade privet, shooting star, trillium, thimbleweed, ragwort, cinquefoil, and cedar glade St. John's wort. Offsite meeting place to be determined and we will carpool to the site. Easy to moderate hike, bring appropriate shoes, insect spray, water and snacks. There is no public access to this site so this is an opportunity to enjoy and learn about this unique forest and glade complex.

### **Hickory Ridge Loop Trail Hike, State Parks 80th Anniversary**

**Date:** Saturday May 6, 2017      **Time:** 9:00:00 a.m. Central Time      **Fee:** Free      **RSVP Deadline:** 5/4/2017

**Location:** Henry Horton State Park Interpretive Center (35.59101, -86.70229)

**Hike Leader:** David Lincicome, Tennessee Natural Heritage Program Manager

**RSVP Contact:** David Lincicome    **phone:** 615-532-0439    **email:** david.lincicome@tn.gov

**More Info:** <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/henry-horton>

**Overnight Accommodations:** <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/henry-horton>

This 2.5-mile trail showcases some of the park's different ecosystems, sink holes and cedar glades. Both are places of amazing diversity and contain plants and animals that are not found in any other type of landscape. Come along and enjoy a spring stroll through karst terrain, limestone cedar glades and oak-hickory forest while celebrating Tennessee State Parks 80th Anniversary. David Lincicome has over 19 years of experience with natural resource management and rare species conservation.

## **Plant Identification Workshop: Get to Know the Plants of Tennessee Swamps and Bottomlands**

**Date:** Saturday May 6, 2017      **Time:** 9:30 a.m. Central Time      **Fee:** \$10      **RSVP Deadline:** 5/4/17

**Location:** Mineral Slough Trail, Ghost River State Natural Area (35.02677, -89.272249). Beasley Drive, LaGrange, Tennessee.

**Hike Leader:** Allan Trently, West Regional Ecologist, Division of Natural Areas

**RSVP Contact:** Loretha Legette    **phone:** 615-532-0044    **email:** loretha.legette@tn.gov

**Online Registration:** <http://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=plant-id-workshop-plants-of-tn-swamps-and-bottomlands>

**More Info:** <http://www.tennessee.gov/environment/article/na-na-ghost-river>

**Overnight Accommodations:** Chickasaw State Park for camping and cabins; visit: <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/chickasaw> for reservations

Participants will learn to recognize many of the plants found in the swamps of west Tennessee. To make things easier, we will sort plants into categories such as woody and herbaceous and floating aquatic and emergent plants. All participants will receive handouts of plant lists and ecological terms. From this workshop, you will gain insight on how an ecologist and/or botanist looks at a swamp and will learn most of the plants found in west Tennessee swamps. Allan Trently, West Tennessee Stewardship Ecologist for the Division of Natural Areas has conducted plant, animal and ecological system inventories of the west Tennessee swamps since joining the Division in 2008. He has led numerous plant and nature walks in the swamps.

The approximately 0.5 mile trail is flat and considered easy walking by most people. In order to study many of the plants, we plan to walk off the trail at designated points during the event. The leader will collect plants in the swamp and bring them to dry land for participants to learn. Participants should wear sturdy boots. Although not required, attendees may also wish to bring a notebook and pencil, a hand lens or magnifying glass, and plant identification guides. For more information, including descriptions, directions, and maps about Ghost River State Natural Area visit the Division of Natural Areas web site at: <http://tn.gov/environment/natural-areas/natural-areas/ghostriver/>. You can address specific questions about the outing to allan.trently@tn.gov.

## **Camps Gulf Cave Tour, Fall Creek Falls State Park -TN State Parks 80th Anniversary**

**Date:** Friday May 19, 2017      **Time:** 10:00 a.m. Central Time      **Fee:** \$10      **RSVP Deadline:** 5/19/16

**Location:** Fall Creek Falls State Park Nature Center (35.662444, -85.350162)

**Hike Leader:** Cara Alexander, Park Ranger Fall Creek Falls; Stephanie Williams, Data Manager, Division of Natural Areas

**RSVP Contact:** Stephanie Williams    **phone:** 615-532-4799    **email:** loretha.legette@tn.gov

**Online Registration:** <http://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=camps-gulf-cave-tour-fall-creek-falls-state-park>

**More Info:**

[http://orgt.pbworks.com/w/file/fetch/81820445/Caving%20Guidelines\\_Waiver\\_AdultwMinor%20and%20decon.pdf](http://orgt.pbworks.com/w/file/fetch/81820445/Caving%20Guidelines_Waiver_AdultwMinor%20and%20decon.pdf)

**Overnight Accommodations:** <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/contact/fall-creek-falls>



Camps Gulf Cave is located in Fall Creek Falls State Park in Van Buren County, Tennessee. On endangered species day we will follow Park Ranger, Cara Alexander, on a tour of the cave and learn about the endangered bat species that use the cave. We will highlight cave features and provide details on White noise syndrome (WNS) disease that affects bat species. People will need to bring an extra change of clothes including shoes, headlamps and flashlights. Helmets will be provided. We will meet at the Nature Center of Fall Creek Falls at 10:00 a.m. from there we will hike approximately .75 miles to the cave entrance. We will spend about an hour to hour and a half inside Camps Gulf cave. Fall Creek Falls State Park requires cave-level dedication or decontamination of cave gear (including everything worn or taken into a cave) please read the information and sign the waiver located in the more info link above.

## **JUNE**

### **Cedar Glade Tour - Couchville, John and Hester Glade, and Vesta**

**Date:** Saturday June 10, 2017      **Time:** 9: 30 a.m. Central Time      **Fee:** \$10      **RSVP Deadline:** 6/8/17

**Location:** Meet 9:00 A.M. at Home Depot on Bell Rd. Antioch,TN (36.046130, -86.666378) or meet on site at 9:30 a.m. at Couchville State Natural Area (36.101182, -86.529418)

**Hike Leader:** Brian Bowen, Administrator, Tennessee Natural Areas Program

**RSVP Contact:** Loretha Legette    **phone:** 615-532-0044    **email:** loretha.legette@tn.gov

**Online Registration:** <http://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=cedar-glade-tour-couchville-john-and-hester-vesta>

**More Info:** <https://www.tn.gov/environment/section/na-natural-areas>

**Overnight Accommodations:** <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/cedars-of-lebanon>

Our tour will provide an opportunity to experience Middle Tennessee cedar glades and barrens near Nashville. The tour's focus is to introduce you to one of the rarest types of natural areas that few people know about. The Middle Tennessee cedar glades and barrens are considered globally rare ecosystems with numerous plants only found here including two federally endangered species, numerous rare state species, and Tennessee coneflower. Tennessee coneflower was federally listed but has since been taken off the Endangered Species List because it has been successfully protected in Tennessee state natural areas. We plan to visit Couchville Cedar Glade, Vesta Cedar Glade, and the John and Hester Cedar Glade. You can meet at Home Depot at 9:00 or at Couchville at 9:30. There is limited van space for those who meet at Home Depot. This is a 4 hour event. The tour will be conducted by Brian Bowen. Brian is the Tennessee Natural Areas Program Administrator and is currently directing cedar glade and barrens restoration. This management activity will be observed and discussed while enjoying this unique landscape.

### **Summer Evening Walk in the Prairie**

**Date:** Tuesday June 20, 2017      **Time:** 5:00 p.m. Central Time      **Fee:** \$10      **RSVP Deadline:** 6/17/17

**Location:** Flat Rock Cedar Glades and Barrens State Natural Area (35.858692, -86.295830). Factory Road, Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

**Hike Leader:** Roger McCoy, Director, Division of Natural Areas

**RSVP Contact:** Loretha Legette    **phone:** 615-532-0044    **email:** loretha.legette@tn.gov

**Online Registration:** <http://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=summer-evening-walk-in-the-prairie>

**More Info:** <http://www.tn.gov/environment/article/na-na-flat-rock-cedar-glades-and-barrens>

**Overnight Accommodations:** The natural area is located 21 miles south of Cedars of Lebanon State Park which has cabins and camping. Visit <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/cedars-of-lebanon> for more information.

Although many of the woodland spring ephemerals have finished flowering and our forests are shady by this time, wildflowers of our non-forested prairies, glades, and barrens provide a great early summer show. Celebrate the summer solstice with a wildflower walk at one of Tennessee's premiere state natural areas. During this approximately three-mile hike, participants will walk through three major community types of the natural area: forests, open rocky cedar glades, and prairie where they'll encounter a number of different prairie grasses and showy flowers such as milkweeds, wavy leaf coneflower, and blazing star. Trained in botany, trip leader Roger McCoy has conducted botanical surveys in a variety of habitats throughout Tennessee. He'll guide walkers off-trail for portions of this event, so wear shoes or boots, use bug spray, and carry snacks and water. With the extended day length we'll begin our outing at 5:00 p.m. This late afternoon / early evening walk should provide for excellent photographs.

## JULY

### "Plant This, Not That"

**Date:** Monday July 10, 2017      **Time:** 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time      **Fee:** Free      **RSVP Deadline:** No deadline

**Location:** green|spaces, 63 E. Main St. Chattanooga, TN (35.0356478,-85.3055256)

**Hike Leader:** Lisa Huff, East Regional Ecologist, Division of Natural Areas

**RSVP Contact:** No reservation required      **phone:** No reservation required      **email:** [lisa.huff@tn.gov](mailto:lisa.huff@tn.gov)

**More Info:** <http://tennesseevalley.wildones.org/upcoming-events/>

Have you ever wondered what you can plant if you want to get rid of invasive exotic plants on your property, such as English ivy, winter creeper, zebra grass, bush honeysuckle and others, or what you can plant instead of these horrible invaders? There are lots of great native alternatives to almost any kind of invasive exotic plant. Join the Tennessee State Natural Areas regional stewardship ecologist, Lisa Huff, for a Power Point presentation to highlight some great alternative natives plants to replace or use instead of invasive exotics. The presentation is specific to exotic species and alternatives in the East Tennessee region. We will also discuss techniques for getting rid of exotics. This presentation will last about one hour, is free and open to the public, and is sponsored by the Tennessee Valley Chapter of Wild Ones. The program will be held in the green|spaces building in downtown Chattanooga. About the leader: Lisa Huff started her professional career working for Tennessee State Parks as a seasonal interpreter over 30 years ago. Her professional experiences have taken her across the North American continent in the U.S. and Canada, to the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, to Europe and to Africa. She's been with the Tennessee Natural Areas Program for the last 16 years.

## AUGUST

### Total Solar Eclipse Viewing

**Date:** Monday August 21, 2017      **Time:** 11:00 a.m. Central Time      **Fee:** \$10      **RSVP Deadline:** 8/16/17

**Location:** Vesta Cedar Glade State Natural Area (36.077812, -86.397839), Gladeville Tennessee

**Hike Leader:** Sam King, Middle Regional Ecologist, Division of Natural Areas

**RSVP Contact:** Sam King      **phone:** 629-215-0194      **email:** [sam.king@tn.gov](mailto:sam.king@tn.gov)

**Online Registration:** <http://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=total-solar-eclipse-viewing>



**More Info:** <http://www.tn.gov/environment/article/na-na-Vesta-Cedar-Glade>

**Overnight Accommodations:** <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/cedars-of-lebanon>

Come see in person what all your friends are talking about, a total solar eclipse. Middle Tennessee is situated perfectly to view this unique astronomical event, the Tennessee Division of Natural Areas is hosting a viewing in one of the most significant ecosystems in the state. The cedar glade environment has few trees and offers large unobstructed views of the sky making it perfect for eclipse viewing. The tradeoff is that there is no shade and this area will likely be hot, so dress appropriately with a hat and sunscreen. A shady area will be nearby if you need to get out of the sun for a while. Participants are also encouraged to wear closed toe shoes for hiking and bug spray. We will meet at 11:00 AM and make a short hike to the viewing area, giving the group plenty of time to see the partial phases leading up to the total eclipse. The eclipse will last about 3 hours, so feel free to bring a blanket to sit on, snacks, and plenty of water. The fee for this program is \$10.00 which will cover the cost of ISO-certified, safe, solar viewing glasses. Join Middle Tennessee ecologist Sam King for this eclipse viewing and hike highlighting some of the land management practices in Tennessee's cedar glades. Trip leader Sam King has spent the last 5 years working for Tennessee State Parks and the Division of Natural Areas as a Park Ranger and Ecologist.

### **Total Solar Eclipse Viewing and Hike**

**Date:** Monday August 21, 2017    **Time:** 11:30 a.m. Central Time    **Fee:** \$10    **RSVP Deadline:** 8/17/17

**Location:** Couchville Cedar Glade State Natural Area (36.101141, -86.529291). South Mt. Juliet Rd, Hermitage, TN.

**Hike Leader:** David Adams, Middle Regional Ecologist, Division of Natural Areas

**RSVP Contact:** David Adams    **phone:** 615-532-0044    **email:** loretha.legette@tn.gov

**Online Registration:** <http://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=total-solar-eclipse-viewing-and-hike>

**More Info:** <http://www.tn.gov/environment/article/na-na-couchville-cedar-glade>

**Overnight Accommodations:** <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/cedars-of-lebanon>

On this day, Tennessee will experience something that hasn't occurred here in over 500 years: A total solar eclipse! Couchville Cedar Glade will fall within the "path of totality" where the moon will completely block the view of the sun for a short period of time. We will start with an overview of the eclipse followed by a viewing of the grand spectacle. We will end with a hike of the natural area to include discussions of the cedar glade ecosystem and the plants that can be found there. Participants should dress appropriately including sturdy shoes/boots, hat, and regular sunglasses. They should also bring water, snacks, and sunscreen. Certified glasses for safely viewing the eclipse will be provided. Trip leader, David Adams, is a Middle Tennessee ecologist for the state natural areas program. He has a background in ecology and natural resource management with professional experience in the Natural Areas Program and the National Park Service.

### **Total Solar Eclipse - The Celestial Event of a Lifetime!**

**Date:** Monday August 21, 2017    **Time:** 12:30 p.m. Eastern  
Time; 11:30 Central Time    **Fee:** \$10    **RSVP Deadline:** 8/16/17

**Location:** Black Mountain, Cumberland Trail State Scenic Trail (36.8672, -84.8843)

**Hike Leader:** Lisa Huff, East Regional Ecologist, Division of Natural Areas

**RSVP Contact:** Loretha Legette    **phone:** 615-532-0431    **email:** loretha.legette@tn.gov

**Online Registration:** <http://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=total-solar-eclipse-the-celestial-event-of-a-lifetime>

**More Info:** <http://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/SEgoogle/SEgoogle2001/SE2017Aug21Tgoogle.html>

**Overnight Accommodations:** <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/cumberland-mountain>

This is the BIG ONE! A total eclipse of our glorious, life-giving star, our Sun. You don't want to miss this life-changing experience, because the next total solar eclipse to traverse North America won't occur until April 8, 2024. So make plans to take off work on August 21, 2017 and join us on the spectacular rock overlook at Black Mountain on the Cumberland Trail State Scenic Trail in Cumberland County, only 1.5 hours from downtown Knoxville, to take part in this one-in-a-lifetime event. The fee will help cover the cost of ISO-certified, safe, solar viewing glasses (provided). Tennessee State Natural Areas regional ecologist, Lisa Huff, will be on hand to provide interpretive information about the solar eclipse. Other items you should bring include a hat, sunscreen, regular sun glasses, plenty of water, and snacks. PLEASE DO NOT BRING CHAIRS OR PETS. The rocks on the overlook at Black Mountain are not flat and we have limited space. Plan to bring a blanket or pad if you want to sit down. The overlook will be hot, but shade is available just by stepping back into the woods from the rocks or you can use an umbrella. There is parking space for 30 vehicles (cars, SUVs, pickups, no trailers or large RVs), so the event will be limited by parking spaces on first-come, first-serve basis. Please carpool. It is about 1/4 mile walk from the parking area to the rock overlook. THIS IS A CLIFF-EDGE SITE and somewhat dangerous, so be aware of that if you bring children. The overlook will provide a plenty of room for participants and a spectacular view of the Ridge and Valley and Blue Ridge of East Tennessee and is within the pathway of eclipse totality. The partial eclipse begins at 1:03 p.m. Eastern Time (12:03 p.m. Central Time) and maximum eclipse is at 2:32 p.m. Eastern Time (1:30 p.m. Central Time). Be at the parking area by 12:30 p.m. Eastern (11:30 a.m. Central) to give yourself plenty of time to walk to the overlook and get situated. The totality of the eclipse will last 2 minutes and 33 seconds at this location and the view will be unobstructed by any trees or other obstructions. The sun should eclipse right in front of us at this location. This event is being held not only to watch a spectacular celestial event, but to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of Tennessee State Parks! We will not hold this event if the sky is heavily overcast or so cloudy that the sun is obstructed from view, so you must register and provide a contact number in case of cancelation. About the leader: Lisa Huff started her professional career working for Tennessee State Parks as a seasonal interpreter over 30 years ago. Her professional experiences have taken her across the North American continent in the U.S. and Canada, to the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, to Europe and to Africa. She's been with the Tennessee Natural Areas Program for the last 16 years.

## **SEPTEMBER**

### **Early fall hike and creek walk in a very beautiful rare plant community type with many rare plant species**

**Date:** Saturday September 2, 2017      **Time:** 10:00 a.m. Central Time      **Fee:** \$10      **RSVP Deadline:** 8/31/17

**Location:** Dry Branch State Natural Area, Brushy Creek Road, Hohenwald, Lewis County. (35.5609, -87.6573)

**Hike Leader:** Andrea Bishop, Recovery Biologist, Division of Natural Areas

**RSVP Contact:** Loretha Legette    **phone:** 615-532-0044    **email:** loretha.legette@tn.gov

**Online Registration:** <http://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=rare-plant-fall-hike-and-creek-walk>

**More Info:** <http://www.tn.gov/environment/article/na-na-Dry-Branch>

**Overnight Accommodations:** Close to Dry Branch State Natural Area is Mousetail Landing State Park. Visit <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/mousetail-landing>

The fall is a perfect time for a hike and creek walk in the picturesque Dry Branch and surrounding woodlands. The natural area that we are exploring is a rare plant community type called the Highland Rim Calcareous Seeps with several rare plants that only occur in these seeps habitat. The federally endangered Tennessee yellow-eyed grass (*Xyris tennesseensis*), several state listed plant species, Grass-of-Parnassus (*Parnassia grandifolia*), Hairy umbrella-sedge (*Fuirena squarrosa*), small headed rush and fen orchis. Many other late summer wildflowers will be in bloom along the creek bank including the cardinal flower, phlox and the great lobelia.. Enjoy the fall colors, cool and clean stream and lush woods. The shale outcrops and the moist wooded streambanks and slopes harbor many species of ferns, mosses, grasses and sedges. The hike will take approximately 3-4 hours, is moderate but there could be slick rocks in the creek. Bring water, lunch and snacks, bug spray and be prepared to get your feet wet or wear rubber boots.

## **Plant Identification Workshop: Exploring the Western Tennessee Valley Limestone Barrens**

**Date:** Saturday September 2, 2017      **Time:** 10:00 a.m. Central Time      **Fee:** \$10      **RSVP Deadline:** 31-Aug-17

**Location:** Carroll Cabin Barrens State Natural Area (35.466635, -88.053813). Smith Gravel Pit Road, Bath Springs, Tennessee

**Hike Leader:** Allan Trently, West Regional Ecologist, Division of Natural Areas

**RSVP Contact:** Loretha Legette    **phone:** 615-532-0044    **email:** loretha.legette@tn.gov

**Online Registration:** <http://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=exploring-the-western-tennessee-valley-limestone-barrens>

**More Info:** <http://www.tennessee.gov/environment/article/na-na-carroll-cabin-barrens>

**Overnight Accommodations:** <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/pickwick-landing>

Participants will learn to recognize many of the plants found in the Western Tennessee Valley Limestone Barrens. The barrens are a series of naturally treeless ecosystems found primarily in Decatur County. In the fall, these ecosystems are alive with color: blueish-green stems of big bluestem, orange-red flowers of Indian grass, yellow flowers of rosinweed and goldenrod, deep-blue flowers of blue sage, light blue flowers of southern prairie aster, purple-pink flowers of blazing star, strikingly violet flowers of prairie aster, as well as a host of other shades of greens, blues, yellows, whites, and pinks. During this workshop, you will learn how to identify many of the plants found in this unique ecosystem and will learn basic tips for identifying the hard-to-identify asters and goldenrods. Allan Trently, West Regional Ecologist for the Division of Natural Areas has conducted plant, animal and ecological system inventories of the west Tennessee barrens since joining the Division in 2008. He has led numerous plant and nature walks in the barrens.

The approximately one mile trail contains gentle slopes and is considered easy to moderate walking by most people. In order to study many of the plants, we plan to walk off the trail at designated points during the event. Participants should wear sturdy boots. Although not required, attendees may also wish to bring a notebook and pencil, a hand lens or magnifying glass, and plant identification guides.

## **Wildflower Identification for Beginners**

**Date:** Saturday Sept. 16, 2017      **Time:** 9:00 a.m. Central Time      **Fee:** \$10      **RSVP Deadline:** 9/14/2017

**Location:** Long Hunter State Park Visitor Center (36.09258, -86.55583)

**Hike Leader:** David Lincicome, Tennessee Natural Heritage Program Manager

**RSVP Contact:** Loretha Legette    **phone:** 615-532-0431    **email:** loretha.legette@tn.gov

**Online Registration:** <http://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=wildflower-identification-for-beginners>

**More Info:** <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/long-hunter>

**Overnight Accommodations:** Cedars of Lebanon State Park is located 16 miles east of Long Hunter and has Cabins and a Campground available. <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/cedars-of-lebanon>

Come enjoy fall wildflowers at Long Hunter State Park and Couchville Glade State Natural Area. David Lincicome will offer an introduction to wildflower identification for beginners. During the walk, participants will learn the use of basic wildflower keys, plant family characteristics and basic botanical terms will be introduced. In order to study many of the plants, we plan to walk off the trail at designated points during the event. Participants should wear sturdy boots. Attendees may also wish to bring a notebook, pencil, lunch, water and bug spray. A hand lens and plant identification guides will be provided for use during the hike. We will spend the morning at Long Hunter State Park and then after lunch willing participants can join David at the nearby Couchville Glade State Natural.

### **Heritage Apple Hike (All You Can Eat!)**

**Date:** Saturday September 23,      **Time:** 10 a.m. Eastern Time      **Fee:** \$10      **RSVP Deadline:** 9/20/17 2017

**Location:** Hampton Creek Cove State Natural Area (36.152327, -82.055601)

**Hike Leader:** Lisa Huff, East Regional Ecologist, Division of Natural Areas

**RSVP Contact:** Lisa Huff    **phone:** 865-594-5601    **email:** loretha.legette@tn.gov

**Online Registration:** <http://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=heritage-apple-hike-all-you-can-eat>

**More Info:** <http://www.tn.gov/environment/article/na-na-Hampton-Creek-Cove>

**Overnight Accommodations:** <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/roan-mountain>

Hampton Creek Cove State Natural Area lies in the pathway of the earliest settlements of East Tennessee. As a result, the area has been inhabited for well over 200 years. Early inhabitants planted numerous apple trees of wondrous varieties, including some that we have no idea what they are! One thing we do know, some of these apples are of heritage varieties and are delicious! Join East Tennessee regional ecologist, Lisa Huff, on a hike up the cove to sample heritage apples and also help collect data on them. As we go, we will tag and geo-locate trees using GPS when we find good-tasting apples. Some trees have already been located in the past and we'll be relocating them for permanent tagging. We'll make pictures of the apples and also develop tasting "notes" to describe the flavors we encounter. If you'd like to take a few apples home with you, that will be fine, but plan on taking no more than what will fit inside one plastic grocery bag. You will also want to bring a pocket knife for cutting samples. Wear a hat, bring water and snacks, dress appropriately for the season and altitude, wear good foot gear. We will not go if it is scheduled to rain so be sure to leave a number where you can be reached the night before when you sign up. About the leader: Lisa Huff started her professional career working for Tennessee State Parks as a seasonal interpreter over 30 years ago. Her professional experiences have taken her across the North American continent in the U.S. and Canada, to the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, to Europe and to Africa. She's been with the Tennessee Natural Areas Program for the last 16 years.

## **OCTOBER**

### **Fall Grasses-Identification and Appreciation**

**Date:** Wednesday Oct. 18, 2017      **Time:** 9:00 a.m. Central Time      **Fee:** \$10      **RSVP Deadline:** 10/13/17

**Location:** Meet at Cedars of Lebanon State Park Nature Center (36.085258, -86.324080)

**Hike Leader:** Todd Crabtree, State Botanist, Division of Natural Areas

**RSVP Contact:** Todd Crabtree **phone:** 615-532-1378 **email:** todd.crabtree@tn.gov

**Online Registration:** <http://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=fall-grassesidentification-and-appreciation>

**More Info:** <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/cedars-of-lebanon>

**Overnight Accommodations:** <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/cabins/cedars-of-lebanon>

Grasses are an under-appreciated group of plants partially due to the difficulty in identifying individual species. We'll look at numerous grasses from cedar glades and barrens and examine the differences between them while examining some of the structures they have in common. We will not get too technical but some knowledge of grass anatomy will be gained during this workshop. The plants will be observed in natural situations so we will also discuss their preferences for different types of habitats. Attractive individually and in mass, grasses are well worth some extra time and attention to appreciate their unique qualities. Due to very limited parking, we will meet at the Nature Center and then carpool to Lane Farm State Natural Area for the workshop.

## **The Science of Fall Colors**

**Date:** Saturday October 21, 2017 **Time:** 10:00 a.m. Central Time **Fee:** \$10 **RSVP Deadline:** 10/17/17

**Location:** Meet at Foster Falls Picnic Area in South Cumberland State Park (35.182322, -85.673886)

**Hike Leader:** Todd Crabtree, State Botanist, Division of Natural Areas

**Online Registration:** <http://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=the-science-of-fall-colors>

**RSVP Contact:** Todd Crabtree **phone:** 615-532-1378 **email:** todd.crabtree@tn.gov

**More Info:** <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/south-cumberland>

**Overnight Accommodations:**

If you have ever wondered why leaves are so colorful in the fall, that and more will be revealed during this hike and workshop. Fall leaf color, leaf architecture and physiology will be the main topics for the day. We will examine leaves up close but they will also be on display at a number of overlooks along the trail as we walk about 3 miles roundtrip. Bring sturdy footwear, water and snacks for this hike.

## **Ghost River State Natural Area Canoe Excursion**

**Date:** Saturday October 28, 2017 **Time:** 9:00 a.m. Central Time **Fee:** \$20 per person for canoes or kayak provided by state park or \$10 per person for private canoes/kayaks. Kids in middle of boat no charge

**RSVP Deadline:** 10/24/17

**Location:** Meet at Bateman Bridge, Moscow, Fayette County (35.0269, -89.3508)

**Hike Leader:** David Haggard, Tennessee State Parks Regional Naturalist; Roger McCoy, Division of Natural Areas Director

**RSVP Contact:** Although Ghost River is not part of Reelfoot Lake State Park, reservations can be completed through Reelfoot's website.

**Online Registration:** <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/events/reelfoot-lake/#/?park=reelfoot-lake> select the date of your choice and whether you wish a canoe or kayak.

**Overnight Accommodations:** Located about 1 hour's drive from the Ghost River, Chickasaw State Park has

cabins and camping. <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/chickasaw>

Tennessee State Parks Regional Naturalist is offering two guided canoe floats on the Ghost section of the Wolf River (October 28 and 29). This excursion takes paddlers through the 2,200-acre Ghost River State Natural Area. Paddlers will float through majestic bottomland forest and explore this mysterious section where the Wolf River disappears into a cypress swamp.

Participants will meet at the Bateman Bridge takeout in Moscow (just south of Hwy 57) at 9:00 am. From there, we'll leave most vehicles and shuttle paddlers to the launch point at Yager Road in LaGrange where we'll launch our boats at 9:30 am. This trip will focus on the history, biological diversity, and beauty of the Ghost River Natural Area. The nine-mile canoe float contains some fast sections (some paddling experience is recommended) and will last approximately six hours. Canoes, life jackets, and paddles are provided.

Participants should bring lunch, drinks, sunscreen, insect repellent and we suggest carpooling. Reservations are required. For information about the float, e-mail David.Haggard@tn.gov or call 901-258-3147.

### **Ghost River State Natural Area Canoe Excursion**

**Date:** Sunday October 29, 2017     **Time:** 9:00 a.m. Central Time     **Fee:** \$20 per person for canoes or kayak provided by state park or \$10 per person for private canoes/kayaks. Kids in middle of boat no charge  
**RSVP Deadline:** 10/24/17

**Location:** Meet at Bateman Bridge, Moscow, Fayette County (35.0269, -89.3508)

**Hike Leader:** David Haggard, Tennessee State Parks Regional Naturalist

**RSVP Contact:** Although Ghost River is not part of Reelfoot Lake State Park, reservations can be completed through Reelfoot's website.

**Online Registration:** <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/events/reelfoot-lake/#/?park=reelfoot-lake> , select the date of your choice and whether you wish a canoe or kayak.

**Overnight Accommodations:** Located about 1 hour's drive from the Ghost River, Chickasaw State Park has cabins and camping. <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/chickasaw>

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Participants should bring lunch, drinks, sunscreen, insect repellent and we suggest carpooling. Reservations are required. You make reservations for the trips at <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/events/reelfoot-lake/#/?park=reelfoot-lake>. For information about the float, e-mail David.Haggard@tn.gov or call 901-258-3147.